

Croatia – Medical Students

Global Health Professionals Survey (GHPS)

FACT SHEET

The Croatia Medical Students GHPS includes data on prevalence of cigarette smoking and other tobacco use, knowledge and attitudes about tobacco use, exposure to second-hand smoke, desire for smoking cessation, and training received during medical school regarding patient counseling on smoking cessation techniques. This information could be very useful in monitoring and developing Croatia's comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Croatia Medical Students GHPS was a school-based survey of all 3rd year medical students attending the 4 medical schools in Croatia. The school response rate was 100% and the student response rate was 98.5%. A total of 404 students participated in the Croatia Medical Students GHPS.

Prevalence

- 67.4% ever smoked cigarettes (male = 67.0%; female = 67.8%).
- 36.6% currently smoked cigarettes (male = 35.9%; female = 37.1%).
- 45.3% ever used other tobacco products (male = 58.1%; female = 39.6%).
- 10.7% currently used other tobacco products (male = 20.2%; female = 6.3%).
- 45.8% of ever smokers smoked on school premises/property during past year.
- 19.8% of ever smokers smoked in school buildings during past year.
- 12.9% of ever other tobacco users used other tobacco products on school premises/property during past year.
- 7.4% of ever other tobacco users used other tobacco products in school buildings during past year.

Factors Influencing Tobacco Use

- 50.4% were exposed to second-hand smoke at home, during past week.
- 95.2% were exposed to second-hand smoke in public places, during past week.
- 83.1% thought school has ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.
- 73.8% thought school enforces ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.
- 64.4% thought school has ban on smoking in indoor public or common areas.
- 75.0% thought school enforces ban on smoking in indoor public or common areas.
- 57.7% thought smoking should be banned in all enclosed public places.
- 87.8% thought tobacco sales to adolescents should be banned.
- 79.2% thought there should be a complete ban on advertising of tobacco products.
- 55.2% of current smokers wanted to stop smoking.
- 30.9% of current smokers ever received help/advice to stop smoking cigarettes.
- 94.9% were taught about dangers of smoking during medical school training.

Role Model and Cessation Training

- 61.2% thought health professionals serve as role models for their patients.
- 97.7% thought health professionals have a role in giving advice about smoking cessation to patients.
- 14.5% received formal training in smoking cessation approaches during medical school.
- 71.7% thought health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques.

Highlights

Out of 100 students...

- **37 currently smoked cigarettes and 11 used other tobacco products.**
- **20 of 37 smokers wanted to quit.**
- **95 were exposed to smoke in public places.**
- **58 supported a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places.**
- **14 received training to provide patients with cessation approaches.**
- **72 thought health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques to use with patients.**